

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An assembly for treating degeneration of a damaged intervertebral disk disposed between two vertebrae, said assembly comprising:

implantable cells physiologically effective for regenerating said intervertebral disk, wherein said cells are optionally analogous to those of the intervertebral disk, ~~and suitable for being implanted in said disk;~~ and

an intervertebral implant comprising:

an intervertebral spacer ~~for placing~~ constructed and sized to be placed between said two vertebrae in order to limit the stresses applied to said intervertebral disk; and

fastener means for fastening said spacer to said vertebrae.

2. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cells are ~~as obtained by being~~ taken from an intervertebral disk of the patient and ~~culturing said cells as taken~~ cultured to increase the number thereof.

3. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cells are ~~such as obtained by taking~~ autologous adult stem cells taken from the bone marrow of the patient and ~~by culturing said cells~~ cultured to increase the number thereof.

4. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cells are ~~such as obtained by taking~~ embryonic stem cells ~~and by culturing said~~ cells which are cultured to increase the number thereof.

5. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 1 further comprising injector means for injecting said ~~implantable~~ cells into the intervertebral disk of the patient.

6. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 1 wherein said spacer of said intervertebral implant comprises a central portion and two end portions, each end portion having a groove defined by two limbs, said grooves each being suitable for receiving the ~~spinus~~ spinous process of a respective vertebra.

7. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 6, wherein said central portion of the spacer is elastically deformable.

8. (currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 6, wherein said fastener means for fastening the intervertebral implant comprise at least one strip securable to said spacer and ~~surrounding~~ being sized and arranged so as to be able surround the processes of said vertebrae ~~so as~~ to hold said processes in said grooves.

9. (Currently amended) A treatment assembly according to claim 7, wherein said fastener means for fastening the intervertebral implant comprise at least one strip securable to said spacer and being sized and arranged to be able to surround ~~surrounding~~ the processes of said vertebrae so as to hold said processes in said grooves.

10. (Currently amended) A method for healing degeneration of a damaged intervertebral disk disposed between two vertebrae, said method including the steps of:

placing an ~~intervertebral~~ intervertebral implant between the processes of said two vertebrae for limiting the stresses applied to said intervertebral disk,

injecting a quantity of cells into said disk, said cells being physiologically effective for regenerating said intervertebral disk, wherein said cells are optionally analogous to those of the intervertebral disk ~~and suitable for being implanted in said disk~~; and

fastening said ~~intervertebral~~ intervertebral disk implant to said processes of the vertebrae.